

[28 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF), sponsoring of market-oriented fairs and delegations abroad, buyer-seller meets etc.

Import of Jute Products

1189. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had now become the largest importer of Raw Jute and Jute Products in the world?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as import of jute products were 54 M.T. in 1987 and is now 1.40 lac M.T.;

(c) details of imports, year-wise;

(d) whether the import have increased due to compulsory jute packing provisions, if so, whether Government propose to dilute the same;

(e) whether the imports have hurt the interests of domestic jute growers and workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and whether Government's plan to regulate imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) No,

Sir. As per the report of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), India came out to be the largest importer of raw jute in 1999 and 2000 only. However, India has never been the largest importer of jute goods during the previous years. A statement giving the details of year-wise import of raw jute and jute products during the last three years and in the current year by India is enclosed. (*See below*)

(d) No, Sir. The import of raw jute and jute goods have not increased due to the compulsory Jute Packing provisions, since imported jute bags and bags made from imported raw jute cannot be used in the sectors specified under the Mandatory Jute Packaging. Order. The Government has already exempted cement and urea from the provision of the Jute packaging Materials

(Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 since 15.12.1998 and 01.09.2001 respectively.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The jute growers have not suffered due to import of raw jute and jute products, as the import of raw jute is mainly of higher grade, which is not available in the country. This high grade raw jute is used by and large by the jute mills for manufacturing value added diversified jute products. In order to regulate imports, Government has issued a Notification making it compulsory for all importers to ensure marking of every imported jute bag with the country of origin.

Statement

Import of Raw Jute and Jute Products and their value by India

Qty: In Tons
Value: Rs. in crores

Year	Raw Jute	Value	Jute Products	Value	Total Import	Total Value
1998-99	9,061	8.15	1,215	1.94	10,276	10.09
1999-2000	140,837	143.80	21,178	36.88	162,015	180.68
2000-01	49,045	58.45	53,678	94.12	102,724	152.57
2001-02 (April' 01- Oct' 01)	25,792	31.32	22,283	42.64	48,075	73.96

Enhancing Textiles Quota with the US

1190. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- whether Government has taken up the issue of enhancing textiles quota with the US;
- if so, the quota limit at present;
- what is Government's estimate about the proposed enhanced quota; and